



National Fire Plan

Coordination at Grand Teton

The Greater Jackson Hole Area of northwestern Wyoming includes Grand Teton National Park, the Bridger-Teton National Forest, the National Elk Refuge, Teton County, and the town of Jackson. Fire management in the area has become a truly interagency partnership protecting nearly 5 million acres. There are many structures, both public and private, that are surrounded by or adjacent to public lands, so fire managers disregard boundaries in favor of jointly managing wildland fires.



Grand Teton National Park

Integrated Training:

Interagency and community-based firefighters train together each spring and early summer; this cooperative training prepares local crews for safe and efficient wildland fire suppression during the fire season.



Wolff Ridge prescribed fire

Coordinated Initial

Attack: All NPS and USFS resources respond to fires, regardless of land ownership, to ensure the most cost-effective and efficient operations. Shared resources include engines, helicopters, fuels management personnel, and fire use monitors. Resources are jointly funded and are often staffed by interagency personnel.

Aviation Program: Funding for two Type III Bell helicopter rappel modules is an integral part of fire management. This shared resource allows park rangers to use the helicopter for short-haul rescue operations within the Park and Forest.

Fire Management Administration: The partnership has broken new ground through management consolidation and shared fire-related positions; among these are a fire prevention officer, a GIS coordinator, and a fire education and information specialist.

National Fire Plan: The agencies developed a working relationship with the state of Wyoming to prioritize fuels reduction projects for wildland/urban interface communities.

Interagency Dispatch: The Teton Interagency Dispatch Center is managed jointly by the Forest and Park, dispatching law enforcement and fire incidents for both agencies.

Teton Area Wildfire Protection Coalition: The Coalition is an interagency working group developed to enhance the comprehensive, collaborative approach to community wildland fire protection. The coalition focuses on employing diverse backgrounds and viewpoints to accomplish fuels projects that benefit the community. The coalition's objectives are to educate citizens about mitigating wildland fire, to provide technical review of fuels reduction and forest stewardship plans, and to facilitate funding opportunities for wildland fire fuels management projects.

The organization's membership includes members of local land management agencies, land trust and conservation organizations, and contractors involved in fire protection projects. The coalition's work follows guidelines established under the National Fire Plan, which

provides funding to prepare for wildland fire, particularly for mitigating risk in wildland/urban interface areas. The National Fire Plan laid the foundation for a long-term program of work to reduce hazardous fuels, restore health to fire-adapted ecosystems, and promote community assistance. Collaboration at the local, regional, and national levels is a key part of the National Fire Plan's implementation strategy.



Fire crew at dusk, Elbo Ranch prescribed fire

Grand Teton National Park and the Bridger-Teton National Forest, with local fire departments and state resource agencies, have created a model program that demonstrates the benefits of extensive partnering. The National Fire Plan initiated the interagency efforts, with years of hard work and determination by Teton area fire personnel.